Using MDL Formatters to Generate Products

After you have edited all the grids, you're ready to use the MDL formatters to create certain products. The products you will produce with the MDL formatters are:

ZFP
CCF
GRIB

— Save and Publish grids —

In order for the MDL formatters to use the grids you have been working on, make sure you have saved and published your grids. Refer to the instructions in the previous section (Save & Publish).

— Create Products —

Now that you have finished your grids, you will be exiting GFE and running a series of programs that will enable you to produce the ZFP, CCF, and GRIB products.

1.   Exit GFE.

2.   The "IFPS Master Menu" will appear. This menu contains several boxes with lines or pathways connecting the boxes. The pathways contain small boxes that are either "green", "yellow", or "red". The arrows indicate which direction data can flow. Green means data will flow through that pathway. Green is good and you will concentrate on the green pathways. At this point, you will be concerned with just 4 boxes: "Grids", "Zones", "Stations", and "Products".

3.   The pathway from "Grids" to "Zones" should be green. If it isn't, change it to green by moving the cursor over the little square in the pathway from "Grids" to "Zones", hold down the right mouse button, and select "green".

4. Click "Zones".

5. A map of our CWA will appear with all the zones clearly marked. This map allows you to combine zones. However, we will not be combining zones at this time so just click on "File" and select "Save". Then click "File" again and select "Exit".

6. A message box that says, "Updating Individual Public Zones. Please Wait..." will appear for several seconds followed by another message box that says, "Please Wait...Creating Public Zones".

7. After these message boxes disappear, another map will appear containing several red boxes with numbers and question marks in them. This is the "Interactive Guidance Revisor" also know as the matrices. We will not be editing anything here so just click on "File" and select "Save". Then click "File" again and select "Exit".

8. The "IFPS Master Menu" will reappear. Note the pathway colors:
From "Grids" to "Zones" should be yellow.
From "Grids" to "Stations" should be green..
From "Zones" to "Stations" should be yellow.

   IMPORTANT: If the path from "Grids" to "Stations" is yellow, change it to green.

9. Click on "Stations".

10. Wait patiently. Another "Interactive Guidance Revisor" screen will eventually appear. Again, we will not be editing anything here so click on "File" and select "Save". Then click "File" again and select "Exit".

11. The "IFPS Master Menu" will reappear.

   From "Grids" to "Zones" should be yellow.
   From "Grids" to "Stations" should be green.
   From "Zones" to "Stations" should be yellow.

12.   Click on "Products".

13.   The "Product Generation Menu" will appear. Click "Groups" near the top of the menu and select "Medford". This will place checks in the ZFP, CCF, and GRIB product selections. Then go down to the "Forecaster Names" section and select the appropriate "Public", "Aviation", and "Fire Wx" forecasters. Finally, click the big "Generate Products" button at the bottom of the menu.

14.   A window will appear showing the generation of the products. When it is finished press <Enter> to make it go away.

15.   Your products are complete. View the ZFP and CCF by calling up PDXMFRCCC (where CCC=ZFP or CCF) on a text workstation. The grib product has been sent to the NDFD website viewable via Netscape on AWIPS.

<div align="center">CONGRATULATIONS !!!</div>